

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

OUTFITTER AND/OR GUIDE INFORMATION

October 1, 2014

The Ottawa National Forest requires a special-use permit for anyone wishing to conduct outfitter and/or guide services on National Forest System lands.

Outfitting and Guiding includes services, equipment, and, in some cases, rudimentary facilities provided by private sector holders to the recreating public. (FSM 2343.8)

Outfitting and guiding include but are not limited to: packing, hunts, education, float trips, canoe or horse liveries, shuttle services, ski touring, helicopter skiing, jeep tours, boat tours, and fishing trips and may be conducted by, among others, educational, rehabilitation, and interpretive ventures and outdoor institutional organizations, including both for-profit and non-profit entities. (FSM 2709.14 sec 53)

Issuance of a Temporary Special Use Permit for Outfitting and Guiding is contingent upon: 1) the clearance of guides to operate under said permit; and 2) not having been convicted of any natural resource related violations within two calendar years prior to the date of application. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement and U.S. Forest Service records will be referenced to determine whether or not natural resource violations have occurred. A Violation Notice issued to the applicant, or those operating under this permit shall serve as cause for denial or revocation of this permit (unless Violation Notice was dismissed, or a judicial ruling of not guilty was issued in United States District Court).

Examples of natural resource related convictions that are cause for denial or revocation of a permit include, but are not limited to:

- Violations of state and/or federal fishing and hunting regulations
- Unauthorized cutting or damaging timber
- Causing natural resources related damage
- Dumping or littering on state or federal land
- Illegal off-road vehicle use on state or federal land

Sylvania Wilderness Area:

Guiding in the Sylvania Wilderness area is prohibited per the Ottawa National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (see Management Prescription 5.3, 3-52).

Non-Michigan / Wisconsin Residents:

1. Out of state residents are not allowed to act as a bear guide, or assist in bear guiding activities within the State of Michigan.
2. Wisconsin residents are not allowed to act as a fishing guide, or assist in fishing guide activities within Iron County or Gogebic County, Michigan.

Definitions (FSM 2709.14 sec 53):

Guiding. Providing services or assistance (such as supervision, protection, education, training, packing, touring, subsistence, transporting people, or interpretation) for pecuniary remuneration or other gain to individuals or groups on National Forest System lands. The term "guide" includes the holder's employees and agents.

Outfitting. Renting on or delivering to National Forest System lands for pecuniary remuneration or other gain any saddle or pack animal, vehicle, boat, camping gear, or similar supplies or equipment. The term "outfitter" includes the holder's employees and agents.

Individuals or entities wishing to conduct outfitter and/or guide activities on National Forest System lands need to contact the Ottawa National Forest for more information regarding allowable activities and the overall permitting process.

For more information, please contact:

Shelly Garber, Natural Resources Specialist
Ontonagon Ranger District
1209 Rockland Road
Ontonagon, MI. 49953
Phone: (906)884-2411 ext. 34
Email: shellygarber@fs.fed.us